

**What is claimed is:**

1. A gaming machine system, including:  
processing means for determining a result of a slot machine game; and  
a plurality of terminals linked via communication means to said processing means, the outcome at each said terminal being solely dependent on the single, communal result determined by said processing means.
2. A gaming machine system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said processing means is adapted to determine individual payouts for each terminal based on the communal result and a wager made at the respective terminal.
3. A gaming machine system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said processing means is operatively coupled to at least one display means for displaying the communal result.
4. A gaming machine system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said processing means determines communal results at predetermined intervals, and the time to the next interval is displayed on the display means and/or each terminal.
5. A gaming machine system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each terminal includes a player interface that displays a history of player wagers, previous communal results, or other selected data.
6. A gaming machine system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said player interface assists the player of each terminal to place wagers on the slot machine game.
7. A method of operating a gaming machine system having processing means and a plurality of terminals linked thereto, said method including the steps of:  
at least one player making a wager on a slot machine game at a respective terminal;

determining the result of the slot machine game with said processing means;

providing said result to all of said plurality of terminals as a communal result; and

awarding any payout to said at least one player dependent on the communal result and the wager made by said player.

8. A method as claimed in claim 8, further including the step of displaying the determined communal result with said processing means.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of determining the communal result is performed at a predetermined interval or time.

10. A method as claimed in claim 7, further including the step of, once the communal result is determined, displaying the time remaining until the result of the next slot machine game is to be determined.

11. A method of playing a communal slot machine game on a gaming machine system, including the steps of:

players making wagers at respective terminals included in said gaming machine system;

when said wagers have been made, rotating a plurality of moving reels included in said gaming machine system a predetermined or random number of times, each moving reel having symbols marked on faces thereof;

stopping the rotation of said moving reels to display a combination of said symbols representing a communal result; and

providing said communal result to all of said terminals, the outcome at each terminal being dependent on said communal result.